

Sent via FOIAOnline

June 28, 2019

Emma Best

Dept. 55000

411A Highland Ave.

Somerville, MA 02144

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request NGC19-360

Dear Ms. Best:

Your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted on June 13, 2019 via *FOIAonline* was received in our office on the same day. We have assigned your request internal tracking number NGC19-360 in addition to the *FOIAOnline* tracking number NARA-NGC-2019-000540. In your request you asked for:

Copies of emails sent to or from either the director's office (or equivalent) as well as their chief of staff (or equivalent) and executive director (or equivalent) containing any of the following 50 (non-case sensitive) words between 1 January 2018 and the present.

The search terms you listed include but are not limited to: damn, webcomic, hurt, accuse, and multiple variations on a profanity. Under the FOIA, requests for records must be described in reasonably sufficient detail to enable government employees who are familiar with the subject area to locate records without placing an unreasonable burden on the agency. Your request does not reasonably describe the type of agency records you are seeking but merely provides a broad range of disconnected terms contained in emails that are not likely to reveal information regarding NARA's operations or activities. Such a request is so broad so as to impose an unreasonable burden upon the agency. Courts have held that FOIA was not intended to allow requesters to conduct "fishing expeditions" through agency files. Therefore, I am denying your request as improper.

This completes the processing of your FOIA request to us.

If you are not satisfied with our action on this request, you have the right to file an administrative appeal within ninety (90) calendar days from the date of this letter via regular U.S. mail or email. By filing an appeal, you preserve your rights under FOIA and give the agency a chance to review and reconsider your request and the agency's decision. If you submit your appeal in writing, please address it to the Deputy Archivist of the United States (ND), National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, Maryland 20740. Both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." If you submit your appeal by e-mail please send it to FOIA@nara.gov, also addressed to the Deputy Archivist of the United States. Please be sure to explain why you believe this response does not meet the requirements of the FOIA. All correspondence should reference your case

tracking number NGC19-360 and your FOIAonline tracking number.

If you would like to discuss our response before filing an appeal to attempt to resolve your dispute without going through the appeals process, you may contact our FOIA Public Liaison Gary M. Stern for assistance at:

National Archives and Records Administration

8601 Adelphi Road, Room 3110

College Park, MD 20740-6001

301-837-1750

garym.stern@nara.gov

If you are unable to resolve your FOIA dispute through our FOIA Public Liaison, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), the Federal FOIA Ombudsman's office, offers mediation services to help resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies. The contact information for OGIS is noted below:

Office of Government Information Services

National Archives and Records Administration

8601 Adelphi Road—OGIS

College Park, MD 20740-6001

ogis@nara.gov

ogis.archives.gov

202-741-5770

1-877-684-6448

Thank you for contacting the National Archives and Records Administration. I may also be reached directly at the number and email address below.

Sincerely,

Joseph A. Scanlon

FOIA & Privacy Act Officer

Office of General Counsel

(301) 837-0583

joseph.scanlon@nara.gov